

IN THE CLAIMS

Upon entry of the present amendment, the status of the claims will be as is shown below. This listing of claims replaces all previous versions and listings of claims in the present application.

1. (Currently Amended) An auxiliary power supply unit which is mountable to a portable electronic device having a battery, comprising:

at least one capacitor; and

an I/F connector which is connectable to an I/F connector of said portable electronic device, said I/F connector ~~of the portable electronic device~~ comprising power terminals connected to said battery;

wherein said I/F connector of the auxiliary power supply unit includes power terminals connected to said at least one capacitor;

wherein said at least one capacitor is connected in parallel to said battery when said auxiliary power supply unit is mounted to said portable electronic device via said power terminals of said I/F connectors; and

wherein, when said at least one capacitor is connected to said battery in parallel, said at least one capacitor discharges to supply power to said portable electronic device when said portable electronic device is in operation, while said battery supplies power to said at least one capacitor to charge said at least one capacitor.

2. (Original) The auxiliary power supply unit according to claim 1, wherein said at least one capacitor is connected in parallel to said battery so as to reduce an internal resistance of said battery when said auxiliary power supply unit is mounted to said portable electronic device via said power terminals of said I/F connectors.

3. (Currently Amended) The auxiliary power supply unit according to claim 1, wherein said at least one capacitor comprises at least one large-capacity capacitor;

~~wherein, in a state where said at least one capacitor is connected in parallel to said battery, said at least one capacitor discharges to supply power to said portable electronic device when said portable electronic device is in operation, while said battery supplies power to said at least one capacitor to charge said at least one capacitor.~~

4. (Original) The auxiliary power supply unit according to claim 1, wherein said portable electronic device is a digital camera.

5. (Original) The auxiliary power supply unit according to claim 1, wherein the auxiliary power supply unit is attached to the portable electronic device at a position so as not to hinder operability of the portable electronic device.

6. (Currently Amended) The auxiliary power supply unit according to claim 1, wherein the auxiliary power supply unit is attached to ~~the~~ a bottom surface of the portable electronic device.

7. (Currently Amended) A portable electronic system, comprising:

a portable electronic device including a battery and a first I/F connector having

terminals connected to a battery; and

at least one accessory which is mountable to said portable electronic device and includes a second I/F connector, said at least one accessory being mounted to said portable electronic device via said first and second I/F connectors;

wherein one of said at least one accessory includes an auxiliary power supply unit having at least one capacitor, said second I/F connector ~~of said auxiliary power supply unit~~ including terminals connected to said at least one capacitor; and

wherein said at least one capacitor is connected in parallel to said battery when said auxiliary power supply unit is mounted to said portable electronic device via said first I/F connector and said second I/F connector; and

wherein, when said at least one capacitor is connected to said battery in parallel, said at least one capacitor discharges to supply power to said portable electronic device when said portable electronic device is in operation, while said battery supplies power to said at least one capacitor to charge said at least one capacitor.

8. (Original) The portable electronic system according to claim 7, wherein said at least one capacitor is connected in parallel to said battery so as to reduce an internal resistance of said battery when said auxiliary power supply unit is mounted to said portable electronic device via said first and second I/F connectors.

9. (Currently Amended) The portable electronic system according to claim 7, wherein said second I/F connector of said one at least one accessory and a auxiliary

~~power supply unit and said second I/F connector of another said at least one accessory are constructed substantially the same so as to both correspond to said first I/F connector.~~

10. (Original) The portable electronic system according to claim 9, wherein said first I/F connector comprises control terminals used for communication between said portable electronic device and said at least one accessory.

11. (Original) The portable electronic system according to claim 7, wherein said portable electronic device is a digital camera.

12. (Currently Amended) A digital camera system, comprising:  
a camera body comprising a battery and a first I/F connector having power terminals connected to said battery; and

at least one accessory which is mountable to said camera body and includes a second I/F connector, said at least one accessory being mounted to said camera body via said first and second I/F connectors;

wherein one of said at least one accessory includes an auxiliary power supply unit having at least one capacitor, said second I/F connector ~~of said auxiliary power supply unit~~ including power terminals connected to said at least one capacitor; and

wherein said at least one capacitor is connected in parallel to said battery when said auxiliary power supply unit is mounted to said digital camera via said first and second I/F connectors; and

wherein, when said at least one capacitor is connected to said battery in parallel, said at

least one capacitor discharges to supply power to said portable electronic device when said portable electronic device is in operation, while said battery supplies power to said at least one capacitor to charge said at least one capacitor.

13. (Original) The digital camera according to claim 10, wherein one of said at least one accessory comprises a printer unit.

14. (New) The portable electronic system of claim 7, wherein said at least one capacitor comprises at least one large-capacity capacitor.

15. (New) The digital camera system of claim 12, wherein said at least one capacitor comprises at least one large-capacity capacitor.